

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

December 3rd 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. massive	a) say that you disagree with something
	2. constitution	b) a sudden change in society; a sudden change of leaders
	3. absolute	c) huge, very large
	4. opposition	d) change, from one form to another, gradually, over time
	5. protest	e) the basic laws of a country, including the rights of the people
	6. revolution	f) to describe a government in which people vote for the leader
	7. back down	g) a crowd of people gathered for a purpose
	8. rally	h) the political party that wants to be in power
	9. transition	i) to not do something you said you would do; change your mind
	10. democratic	j) total; 100%

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Egypt's _____ Morsi has recently changed the constitution.	a) powerful opposition b) Islamist president
2. The change he made to the constitution will give him _____	a) nearly absolute powers. b) massive actions.
3. Many protesters, who support the opposition, said his actions may cause a "_____."	a) second revolution b) powerful government
4. Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood party will _____ on Wednesday, in Cairo's Tahrir Square.	a) protest his actions b) hold a large rally
5. Two hundred thousand _____ protested in Tahrir Square on Tuesday.	a) opposition supporters b) brothers
6. Morsi made those changes to the constitution to _____	a) help Egypt change to a democratic nation. b) to prevent Egypt from becoming democratic.

Discussion Question

How can the people of a country adopt democracy without much struggle? What are the main benefits for people who live in a democratic country?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
financial – having to do with money
on both sides of the pond – (a common saying) The Atlantic ocean is referred to as the pond. The US and Canada are on the other side of the pond from the UK.
superb – excellent
governor – the person in charge of the bank or another institution
recession – a period of time when the economy is not doing very well

1. advisor me money. My helped save financial to
My financial advisor helped me to save money.
2. People of sides speak pond. English both the on

3. grammar. The job the teacher explaining a superb did

4. Mark governor the the Carney Canada. is of of Bank

5. recession. 2008 In global was there a

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is Mark Carney's job now? How long has he been there?
2. What job will Mark Carney soon have?
3. When will Mark Carney move across the pond?
4. How do people feel about this move?
5. Who is Jim Flaherty?
6. What did Jim Flaherty say about Carney?
7. What has Carney done for Canada?

Discussion Question

How did the recession in 2008-2009 affect your life? What financial changes can people make to improve their own lives?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary: Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

barring	(not allowing)
vaccine	(medicine to prevent illness)
board	(A group of people who control an organization)
chastity	(when someone does not have sex)
criticized	(to say negative things about)
overwhelming	(a large amount)
values	(your beliefs & morals about what is right & wrong)

1. There is no _____ for the common cold but there is one for influenza.
2. There is _____ support for the government decision.
3. It is hard to be _____ by your friends and family.
4. My _____ include giving money to charity at Christmas time.
5. My school has a policy _____ the use of cell phones during class.
6. A nun is a religious person in Catholic religion who has made a promise of _____.
7. I wrote a letter to the school _____ to complain about their policies on grading.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Chronological Order

Put the following events in the order that they occurred. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The HPV vaccine program will begin this school year.
2. ____ The Board asked parents for their opinions about the HPV vaccine program.
3. ____ The Catholic Board considered the opinions of parents and new information about the vaccine.
4. ____ The Catholic school Board changed its original decision.
5. ____ The Catholic school Board voted against the HPV vaccine program.

Discussion Question

Do you think that all children should get this HPV vaccine? Should religious schools be able to have different policies to public schools? When?

Language Focus Identifying Adverbs

Adverbs are words that describe or give more information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. We use adverbs to enhance ideas or help us describe how, when, where, or how much an action was performed.

Adverbs usually end in the suffix 'ly'. The ones that end in 'ly' are easy to identify.

Adverbs can come in many different places in a sentence. They often come before or after the verb they are modifying, but they can also come at the beginning or at the end of a sentence.

Here are some examples to show how adverbs can enhance verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.

The people protested.

The people protested peacefully.




The student studied.

The student studied very hard for the exam.




The student hardly studied for the exam. (*this means the student did not study much)





The leader is strong.

The leader is very strong.



Look at an example from the stories this week:

"Egypt's Islamist president Morsi has recently changed the constitution to give himself nearly absolute powers and he is saying he will not back down."



Both of the adverbs used in this sentence end in 'ly'. **Recently** describes when the action occurred and the adverb appears before the verb it is modifying. **Nearly** describes how much and is modifying an adjective, absolute.

Pay attention to words ending in 'ly' and notice how they modify the verb, adjective or another adverb in the sentence.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	DECEMBER 3RD WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for December 3rd.	0:00
Story 1	There have been massive opposition protests in Egypt this week. Egypt's Islamist president Morsi has recently changed the constitution to give himself nearly absolute powers and he is saying he will not back down. Protestors warn that his actions may cause a "second revolution." Morsi's supporters said Wednesday that his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists will hold a large rally in Cairo's Tahrir Square This is the place where more than 200,000 opposition supporters protested one day earlier. President Morsi says his changes are meant to help Egypt's transition to democratic rule. However, the opposition may try to make Morsi leave office if large crowds continue to gather against him.	0:10
Story 2	Mark Carney is leaving the Bank of Canada for one of the most well-known financial jobs in the world, running the Bank of England. It is a very important time in the Bank's 318-year history. The news that Carney would be the new boss there shocked many people on both sides of the pond. Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Carney has been a superb governor of the Bank of Canada for more than five years, so he will be missed. Carney starts the job next July which means Carney will leave his job at the Bank of Canada about 18 months before his term ended. Carney's has helped to help guide the Canadian economy through the 2008-09 recession.	01:20
Story 3	The Calgary Catholic School Board has reversed its policy barring Grade 5 and Grade 9 girls from getting the HPV vaccine in its schools. On Wednesday, the board voted in favour of making the vaccine available to female students. In 2008, the board had voted against the program saying it wasn't in keeping with its values of chastity. Health professionals and members of the public had criticized that decision. So this past October, parents with kids in the Catholic system were asked for their opinions and it seems there was overwhelming support from them. The board considered the parents' opinions and other new information about the vaccine. The HPV vaccine prevents Human Papillomavirus, a sexually-transmitted virus that can cause cancer. The board hopes to start the HPV vaccination program this school year.	02:27

Answer keys News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. massive	a) say that you disagree with something
e	2. constitution	b) a sudden change in society; a sudden change of leaders
j	3. absolute	c) huge, very large
h	4. opposition	d) change, from one form to another, gradually, over time
a	5. protest	e) the basic laws of a country, including the rights of the people
b	6. revolution	f) to describe a government in which people vote for the leader
i	7. back down	g) a crowd of people gathered for a purpose
g	8. rally	h) the political party that wants to be in power
d	9. transition	i) to not do something you said you would do; change your mind
f	10. democratic	j) total; 100%

Listening

1. Egypt's _____ Morsi has recently changed the constitution.	a) powerful opposition b) Islamist president
2. The change he made to the constitution will give him _____	a) nearly absolute powers. b) massive actions.
3. Many protesters, who support the opposition, said his actions may cause a "_____."	a) second revolution b) powerful government
4. Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood party will _____ on Wednesday, in Cairo's Tahrir Square.	a) protest his actions b) hold a large rally
5. Two hundred thousand _____ protested in Tahrir Square on Tuesday.	a) opposition supporters b) brothers
6. Morsi made those changes to the constitution to _____	a) help Egypt change to a democratic nation. b) to prevent Egypt from becoming democratic.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. My financial advisor helped me to save money.
2. People speak English on both sides of the pond.
3. The teacher did a superb job explaining the grammar.
4. Mark Carney is the governor of the Bank of Canada
5. In 2008 there was a global recession.

Listening

1. What is Mark Carney's job now? How long has he been there? *Mark Carney is the governor of the Bank of Canada. He has been there more than 5 years.*
2. What job will Mark Carney soon have? *Mark Carney will be the governor of the Bank of England.*
3. When will Mark Carney move across the pond? *Carney will start his new job July, 2013.*
4. How do people feel about this move? *People in Canada and England are shocked.*
5. Who is Jim Flaherty? *He is the Minister of Finance in Canada.*
6. What did Jim Flaherty say about Carney? *Flaherty said Carney has been a superb governor and he will be missed.*
7. What has Carney done for Canada? *Carney helped to guide the Canadian economy through the 2008-9 recession.*

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. There is no vaccine for the common cold but there is one for influenza.
2. There is overwhelming support for the government decision.
3. It is hard to be criticized by your friends and family.
4. My values include giving money to charity at Christmas time.
5. My school has a policy barring the use of cell phones during class.
6. A nun is a religious person in Catholic religion who has made a promise of chastity.
7. I wrote a letter to the school board to complain about their policies on grading.

Listening

1. 5 The HPV vaccine program will begin this school year.
2. 2 The Board asked parents for their opinions about the HPV vaccine program.
3. 3 The Catholic Board considered the opinions of parents and new information about the vaccine.
4. 4 The Catholic school Board changed its original decision.
5. 1 The Catholic school Board voted against the HPV vaccine program.